

The Truth About Romulo Kintanar

Some groups and individuals abroad are claiming that Romulo Kintanar was killed by an arresting team of the New People's Army (NPA) of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) for no reason other than leaving the CPP and dissenting against it. They completely obscure the fact that Kintanar had become an intelligence agent and combat asset of the Manila government and had resisted his arrest with force.

Let us set the record straight with more facts in detail.

An Acknowledged Intelligence Agent of the Manila Government

Romulo Kintanar was an intelligence agent of the Manila government's military and police since 1992. As such he was a combatant in the ongoing civil war between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the revolutionary movement of the Filipino people, represented by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in peace negotiations between the GRP and the NDFP.

No less than GRP President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo confirmed that Kintanar was an intelligence agent of the Manila government. *The Philippine Star* on 27 January 2003 reported in its banner story, *NPA Admits Kintanar Slay*: "President Arroyo confirmed that Kintanar was working as a government intelligence agent at the time of his assassination."

Earlier, on 23 January 2003, an official in Arroyo's Malacanang Palace said Kintanar was "a consultant of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), but was drawing his salary from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID)" (*Philippine Daily Inquirer, Breaking News, 24 January 2003, Communist Party Chief Blamed for Slay of Former NPA Head*). He was also a security consultant to

the National Electrification Administration (NEA) at the time of his death.

Efforts to recruit Kintanar into the military intelligence were successfully carried out in the period of March to August 1992 when PNP intelligence officer Col. Robert Delfin faked the arrest of his asset Ricardo Reyes, a renegade expelled from the CPP more than a decade ago, and put him in the same detention cell as Kintanar in order to turn him against the revolutionary movement.

After his release from prison through an amnesty program of the Manila government in September 1992, Kintanar made known his separation from the CPP. He started to work for the intelligence services of the GRP and also became thoroughly involved in the criminal world of corrupt military and police officers engaging in protection rackets, armed robbery, kidnapping and murder for hire, even putting up his own private security agency (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 24 January 2003, *Ibid*) as cover for his nefarious activities.

Kintanar, together with his uncle, Gen. Galileo Kintanar, former head of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP) during the Marcos regime, was linked to the murder of movie star Nida Blanca and was known to facilitate transactions with the military and police for a fee. Two days before his death Kintanar was one of the special guests of PNP chief General Hermogenes Ebdane at the 12th founding anniversary of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO), hobnobbing with top police officers (*The Philippine Star*, 24 January 2003, *Ex-NPA Chieftain Slain*). Also another special guest was Arturo Tabara, who is the chieftain of the RPA gang, a security force of big landlord and Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco in Negros Occidental.

In 2000, after becoming security consultant to Gen. Alexander Aguirre, former President Joseph Estrada's national security ad-

viser, Kintanar was designated project officer in an assassination plot against Prof. Jose Maria Sison in the Netherlands. He followed the direction of Gen. Panfilo Lacson, head of the PNP at the time. (*Manila Times*, 24 January 2003, *Ex-NPA Chief Assassinated Inside QC Restaurant*) He also took part in surveillance and other “counter-insurgency” operations by the military and police against the CPP and NPA.

At the time of his death, Kintanar was with two bodyguards and was personally armed with three guns: a .45 caliber pistol, an HK machine pistol and a Glock 9mm pistol (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 6 February 2003, *Kintanar Lost Rolex, Cash, 3 Guns, Golf Set*). As an intelligence agent of the GRP, he was always ready for combat against the revolutionary movement.

Kintanar was definitely a combatant. He was fully armed and dangerous at the time of his death. These facts are well known in the Philippines. But some groups and individuals abroad would rather peddle lies than tell the truth about events in the Philippines in their vicious scheme to malign the Philippine revolutionary movement.

Who Was Romulo Kintanar Before 1992?

Romulo Kintanar used to be chief of staff of the NPA. He became notorious for his so-called exploits in leading groups to kill traffic policemen in Agdao district of Davao City in 1984, at a time when erroneous ideas began to run in the CPP leadership and it adopted urban insurrectionism as a form of military strategy. But unknown to the CPP leadership, Kintanar had by then also started to engage in such criminal activities as bank robberies, holdups and extortions.

When he took over the NPA in 1986, he gave full vent to his gangster activities by organizing “special operations groups” allegedly to raise funds for the movement but in reality to sustain his luxurious and decadent lifestyle. He ordered these groups to

carry out kidnapping-for-ransom, holdups of banks and other businesses, dollar counterfeiting operations, and other criminal activities. He corrupted and debased these groups by giving them a share in the spoils and allowing them to carry out small operations according to their personal wishes. He even connived with criminal syndicates and corrupt elements in the military and police in these special operations that led to the death of several operatives.

He directed these special operations without reporting and accounting for them to the CPP leadership. These special operations included the kidnapping of Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji and Bombo Radyo-Philippines owner Roger Florete and the holdup of a bank in mid-1991 which reportedly netted more than P60 million. Kintanar used his position to enrich himself and his cohorts (*The Philippine Star*, 27 January 2003, *Ibid*). When his gangster operations became known to the CPP leadership he was ordered to stop but he refused until his supposed re-arrest in August 1991.

Kintanar was also the one mainly responsible for expanding and bringing on a national scale the urban insurrectionist strategy. The unwarranted killings of traffic policemen in Metro Manila (200 in a span of two months) elicited violent retaliation from military and police death squads that led to the summary executions of six human rights lawyers and several prominent mass leaders in 1987. Likewise, mass arrests, zonings and saturation drives with hooded informants became nightly occurrences then in urban poor communities that led to the destruction of people's organizations and livelihood programs.

For his criminal activities and military adventurist errors, Kintanar was held accountable to the people by the revolutionary movement. Instead of owning up to his crimes and errors, Kintanar chose to fight the movement, sowed intrigues against

the CPP, and participated actively as an intelligence agent in the planning and implementation of “counter-insurgency” operations against the NPA.

For committing serious crimes, he was charged before a revolutionary court. The court found prima facie evidence for his crimes and issued an arrest order. Always armed and dangerous and accompanied by bodyguards, no NPA arresting team could get close to him to serve the arrest warrant until 23 January 2003. On that fateful day, however, the NPA arresting team was forced to shoot him because he made a move to bring out one of his guns in order to resist arrest while cussing the leader of the NPA arresting team (as told by an eyewitness, Willie Milan, a film director who was in the same table with Kintanar at the time of the shooting, to DZMM, a leading radio station in Manila). In fact, his two bodyguards had already drawn their weapons (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 24 January, *Ibid*).

The Justice System of the Philippine Revolutionary Movement

The justice system of the Philippine revolutionary movement operates according to international laws and norms governing armed conflict and in consonance with its capabilities.

The revolutionary movement subscribes to due process as a fundamental principle in the administration of justice. This is enshrined in the *Guide for Establishing a People’s Democratic Government* issued in 1976 and affirmed by the NDFP’s *Unilateral Undertaking to Apply the Geneva Conventions and Its Protocols* in 1996.

The revolutionary movement has amply demonstrated in practice its commitment to due process in the treatment of prisoners of war (POW) as can be attested to by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in its participation in the releases of POWs by the NPA on humanitarian grounds on numerous occasions in the past.

In the case of Romulo Kintanar, a competent body of prosecutors in the revolutionary movement made a thorough investigation of the charges against him. It interviewed witnesses and gathered evidence before preparing the charge sheet and presenting it to the people's court. Through intermediaries, Kintanar was informed of the charges against him in writing. But instead of replying to the charges, Kintanar chose to be an active combatant against the revolutionary movement while continuing with his criminal activities under the protection of his superiors and cohorts in the reactionary military and police. Thus the prosecutors asked the people's court to issue a warrant for his arrest.

Maligning the Philippine Revolutionary Movement Abroad

For any group or individual now to claim that Kintanar was killed for simply leaving and opposing the CPP is a brazen lie. Kintanar was a combatant and a criminal who deserved to be haled to the people's court to answer the charges against him. But he chose to arm himself to the teeth and surround himself with bodyguards to prevent the peaceful service of the arrest warrant. And he tried to resist arrest with force when about to be taken into custody by an NPA arresting team.

Some groups and individuals abroad even make the preposterous claim that the NPA killed Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, an erstwhile member of the CPP, in February 2001. They should listen to Edcel Lagman, brother of Popoy and a former congressman, who pointed out that "never did the NPA own up in (Popoy's) case". He added: "a certain senatorial candidate in the May 2001 polls, on whom Popoy had the goods, could have been the mastermind. The candidate has access to sophisticated equipment for accurately monitoring Popoy's communications." (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 6 February 2003, *Popoy Lagman Killers Still 'Out There,' Says Kin*)

Echoing the Manila government's military intelligence reports, these groups and individuals also speak of a so-called NPA hit list as if such reports could be relied upon for truth and accuracy. The CPP called such reports about the existence of a hit list a Malacanang concoction and branded military intelligence a contradiction in terms (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 27 January 2003, *Communists Call 'Hit List' a Malacanang 'Concoction'*). In the administration of justice, the NPA through prosecutors secures first the warrant of arrest from the revolutionary people's courts by presenting the complaint and prima facie evidence. The NPA does not take any offensive action against any individual suspect without due cause.

Not content with the above lies, these groups and individuals also make the blatantly false accusation that Prof. Jose Maria Sison had foreknowledge of what happened to Kintanar. The fact is Prof. Sison had issued a statement the day following Kintanar's death, disclaiming any knowledge of the killing and noting three widely known theories about it, even including the possibility that it could have been done by the NPA. (*Annex 5, Romulo Kintanar Had Too Many Rivals and Enemies in the Criminal World of Military and Police Operatives, Press Statement, Prof. Jose Maria Sison, January 24, 2003*). Two days later, the Spokesperson of the CPP, Gregorio Rosal, made an announcement on the killing. (*Annex 6, It Was Absolutely Correct to Apprehend and Punish Romulo Kintanar, Press Statement, Gregorio Rosal, January 26, 2003*).

Some of those maligning the Philippine revolutionary movement are renegades. Having failed in their earlier attempt to wreck the movement from within, they are now out to destroy its name abroad among solidarity friends. They speak of upholding democracy and civil rights but have been most vicious in attacking the CPP and NPA in the most undemocratic way and means

possible. But their lies will never erase the truth that Kintanar was a combatant and criminal, that Lagman was not killed by the NPA, and that a so-called NPA hit list does not exist.

Among the most active vilifiers of the CPP and NPA are Ricardo Reyes and Sixto Carlos who are using their contacts with Trotskyite groups and right wingers in nongovernmental organizations to spread lies against the revolutionary movement. Their international campaign of demonification against the CPP, NPA and Prof. Sison jibes with the “terrorist” listing of these by the US and other pro-US governments and with the escalating campaign of human rights violations by the military, police and paramilitary forces of the US-Arroyo regime under the pretext of anti-terrorism.

Since the “terrorist” listing, the US-Arroyo regime has gone all out with its brutal campaign of repression against the people and the revolutionary movement. As of 31 May 2003, there have been more than 2,010 recorded cases of human rights violations by the regime, including the summary executions of “30 unarmed civilians, three of whom were human rights activists and 27 community activists, most of whom were members of the political party, Bayan Muna” (*Amnesty International Report 2003, AI Index: ASA 35/002/2003*). The US-Arroyo regime has been using Bush’s war on terror as a convenient cover for its own brand of state terrorism.

Human Rights Committee
Negotiating Panel
National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)
26 July 2003

Annexes

1. Excerpts from News Article 'Ex-NPA Chief Assassinated Inside QC Restaurant', *Manila Times*, January 24, 2003
2. Excerpts from News Article 'Ex-NPA Chieftain Slain', *The Philippine Star*, January 24, 2003
3. Excerpts from News Article 'Communist Party Chief Blamed for Slay of Former NPA Head', *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, January 24, 2003
4. Excerpts from DZMM Tagalog Radio Broadcast, January 24, 2003
5. Romulo Kintanar Had Too Many Rivals and Enemies in the Criminal World of Military and Police Operatives, *Statement, Prof. Jose Maria Sison*, January 24, 2003
6. It Was Absolutely Correct to Apprehend and Punish Romulo Kintanar, *Statement, Gregorio Rosal*, January 26, 2003
7. Excerpts from News Article 'NPA Admits Kintanar Slay', *The Philippine Star*, January 27, 2003
8. Excerpts from News Article 'Kintanar Lost Rolex, Cash, 3 Guns, Golf Set', *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, February 6, 2003

Ex-NPA Chief Assassinated Inside QC Restaurant

Manila Times
Friday, January 24, 2003

ROMULO Kintanar, a former chief of the communist New People's Army who rejoined the government was gunned down by suspected Leftist assassins yesterday while having lunch in a Quezon City restaurant.

Police said Kintanar, 50, was shot dead at about 2 p.m. inside Kamameshi, a Japanese restaurant at the Quezon Memorial Circle. He sustained six gunshot wounds.

Central Police District investigators said the killing bore the stamp of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, a communist death squad which he had set up when he was commander in chief of the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The NPA has been fighting for a Marxist state for 33 years and has been blacklisted by the United States as a "foreign terrorist organization."

Kintanar's companions, Ricky Beltran, Ed Ruiz and a still unidentified friend were also wounded. Police said Kintanar and his friends were eating at Kamameshi when two unidentified men in civilian clothes walked up to them and opened fire at Kintanar. Witnesses said two other men served as lookouts outside the restaurant.

Police sources, meanwhile, surmised that Kintanar's slaying could be political because he and three other rejectionist groups, the Revolutionary Proletariat Army, the Alex Boncayao Brigade and the Rebolusyonyong Partido ng Manggagawa, signed a peace agreement with the government in 2000. This incensed the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines and ordered the NPA to liquidate Kintanar.

The government had attempted “to utilize” Kintanar’s group to liquidate Jose Ma. Sison, founder of the CPP, during the administration of former President Estrada (*Editor’s Note: Bold letters ours*).

The NPA hit list consists of ranking government officials as well as former NPA rebels who have returned to the government. The sources, who requested anonymity, said Sison had ordered the liquidation of former communist leaders who “betrayed” the organization.

Kintanar’s killing came a week following reports identifying him as the target of an NPA urban hit squad known as the National Special Operations Group, reportedly led by a certain Leo Velasco.

There were also newspaper reports of Kintanar’s “dubious business dealings” with Philip Medel who confessed to the slaying of veteran movie actress Nida Blanca but later recanted it.

At the time of his death, Kintanar was working as a security consultant for the Bureau of Immigration.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said she was shocked by Kintanar’s death.

“Rolly was a good man. I hope and pray that justice would be rendered on his untimely demise,” said Domingo.

Kintanar also worked for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in 1998.

Kintanar was also adviser to his uncle, Cebu Rep. Simeon Kintanar.

Kintanar, who came from rich landed family, was an 18-year-old freshman at the Ateneo de Davao when he went underground in 1970.

Kintanar was promoted as chief of the NPA general command in 1985 because of his many victorious battles in Mindanao.

Kintanar was the leader of the communist guerrillas who assassinated in 1989 Col. James “Nick” Rowe, a US military adviser to Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He and his wife, Joy Jopson were arrested in 1991 at a Manila hospital where they had undergone plastic surgery to disguise their identities. Kintanar broke away from the communist movement in 1992 after serving his time in prison.

After his release, he set up cooperatives and was hired by Speaker Jose de Venecia as a consultant when he ran in the 1998 presidential elections.

Kintanar’s name also surfaced in the controversial Nida Blanca murder case.

Police said Kintanar facilitated the surrender of Medel to the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Kintanar also joined the administration of then President Fidel Ramos.

More than 40,000 people have died in the leftist insurgency since it started in 1969.

The government and the Communist Party have held peace talks to end the insurgency. The government panel broke off the negotiations last year after NPA death squads assassinated two legislators.

Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye condemned Kintanar’s killing, adding that initial information indicates that “Kintanar has always been under constant threat since he turned his back on the New People’s Army.”

Ex-NPA Chieftain Slain

The Philippine Star
Friday, January 24, 2003

Romulo Kintanar, former head of the New People's Army (NPA), was felled by assassins' bullets inside a Japanese restaurant at the Quezon City Memorial Circle yesterday afternoon.

Two unidentified gunmen fired at Kintanar, hitting him eight times in different parts of the body, killing him instantaneously. Two other men were wounded in the attack.

The fatal shots penetrated Kintanar's lungs and heart, said Dr. Vladimir Villaseñor, head of the Philippine National Police (PNP)'s medico-legal division.

Witnesses said Kintanar and his three companions had just finished eating lunch at the Kamameshi House restaurant at the Quezon City Circle when the two gunmen, who posed as customers, approached their table at about 1:30 p.m., casually pulled out their firearms and opened fire.

Kintanar, 52, was said to be the head of security at the Bureau of Immigration and a consultant at the National Electrification Administration (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*).

The two other victims in the shooting were identified as Edward Ruiz and Ricky Beltran, who sustained gunshot wounds and are currently confined at the Philippine Heart Center.

Ruiz and Beltran, police said, were not Kintanar's companions and were hit by stray bullets.

A police source said Kintanar could have recognized his killers and tried to run away, which caused the injuries sustained by Ruiz and Beltran. When he collapsed on the floor after sustaining bullet wounds, one of the suspects shot him again to make sure he was dead.

None of Kintanar's three companions were hurt. They scampered in different directions during the incident. The victim's widow, Joy, refused to be interviewed by reporters. She was not with him at the time.

Waiter Macario Pena, 40, said Kintanar was a regular customer at the restaurant. He and his companions arrived at about 12:30 p.m. while the suspects went in half an hour later.

The suspects were described as men in their late thirties. One of the gunmen was said to be of medium build and wearing a white shirt. One suspect was armed with a caliber .45 automatic while the other had a 9-mm. pistol.

Police Superintendent Raul Medina said that a slug of one of the firearms used and around 13 empty shells were recovered from the scene. Robbery was ruled out as the motive for the killing as none of Kintanar's valuables were missing.

He was killed a few hours after he went to Camp Crame's Firearms and Explosives Division to follow up papers for his firearm, and two days after he and fellow former communist leader Arturo Tabara met with PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*).

Guests at NCRPO

Kintanar and Tabara were among the guests during the 12th founding anniversary of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) last Tuesday (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*).

The two former communist leaders apparently distanced themselves from Ebdane, eating their lunch at a table 100 meters away from the NCRPO grandstand. Ebdane, NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco and other top ranking PNP officials ate lunch on the stage.

After lunch, Chief Superintendent Vidal Querol, chief of the PNP directorate for operations, apparently summoned by Ebdane, arrived.

Ebdane, Querol, Kintanar, and Tabara then talked for more or less 30 minutes. Reporters observed the four to be laughing while in conversation.

It was not known, however, what topic was discussed by Ebdane and Querol with the former communist leaders. They left on board a vehicle and joined the convoy of Ebdane out of the camp.

Querol, in a telephone interview, refused to divulge the main topic of the conversation between him and the two former communist leaders.

“I was shocked (upon hearing about his death). That was nothing significant,” Querol said, referring to his last meeting with Kintanar.

He added that “let us just let the investigation take its course.”

Communist Party Chief Blamed for Slay of Former NPA Head

Philippine Daily Inquirer
January. 24, 2003

HIS LAST meal consisted of sushi, tempura and rice, hardly the spartan fare of the peasant-based army of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) that he had once led.

After his meal at the Kamameshi Restaurant in the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, two unidentified gunmen approached Romulo Kintanar, former chief of the New People's Army (NPA), and shot him dead at around 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

About three hours earlier, Kintanar said in a television interview that he was supporting the peace process. Now is the time for reform, not revolution, he said.

Top military and police officials were quick to blame the CPP and NPA for the killing.

PNP intelligence director Roberto Delfin said in a TV interview that Kintanar had said to him a week ago that a CPP-NPA insider had told him that he was marked for "liquidation."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes also told a news conference that "intelligence reports point to the NPA as the perpetrator of the crime."

Lieutenant Colonel Jonas Sumagaysay, operations chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, said Kintanar had been marked for liquidation by the CPP-NPA after CPP founder Jose Maria Sison branded him as a traitor.

Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Kintanar could have been killed by the NPA. He cited reports indicating that Kintanar had "always been under constant threat since he turned his back on the New People's Army."

A former comrade in the communist underground, Congressman Satur Ocampo said he was not aware of any order from the CPP to kill Kintanar, and did not want to speculate on who was behind the killing of his former comrade.

“As far as I know, there has been no talk about any order or operation from the Left to eliminate those who are identified with the RJs (rejectionists),” Ocampo, , former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front, told the Inquirer in a phone interview. “Even at the height of the split, there was no statement to physically eliminate them.”

Kintanar’s killing came more than a year after another former comrade, Filemon Lagman, was shot dead on the nearby campus of the University of the Philippines. Like Kintanar, Lagman and his Manila-Rizal Party Committee of the CPP broke away in the 1990s from the main CPP faction loyal to Sison. Lagman later formed his own leftist group.

Kintanar went his own way after severing ties with the CPP-NPA over ideological differences with Sison, who is now based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Kintanar, 53, was with Ricky Beltran and Ed Ruiz, reportedly his colleagues at the Bureau of Immigration where he was serving as a security consultant. The group had asked for their bill when the shooting started.

Mac Peña, a waiter at the restaurant, was busy serving a customer when out of the corner of his eye he spotted one of the gunmen around five meters away from Kintanar’s table. “I heard three shots but I wasn’t able to see his face,” he said. “He was around five feet and seven inches tall, wearing a cap and shades.”

When the gunman felled Kintanar, another approached the former NPA chief and pumped more bullets into his body. The two suspects, along with two other companions, then calmly walked out of the restaurant.

Kintanar was seated at a corner of the restaurant, his back toward the entrance. He frequented Kamameshi for lunch with friends.

Beltran and Ruiz were also hit as they tried to draw their own firearms (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*). Waiters and bystanders brought the two to the East Avenue Medical Center. They are out of danger.

Customers rushed out of the restaurant, leaving their meals unfinished.

Amid uneaten Japanese dishes of raw fish and half-empty glasses, police recovered from the crime scene 12 slugs from a Super .38 caliber pistol and a .45 caliber automatic. Blood was splattered in different parts of the floor amid broken glasses and beer bottles. The restaurant's glass was broken by bystanders who rushed out to bring the injured to the hospital.

Shocked waiters said they had noticed the four assailants walk into the restaurant and sit down. The four did not order any food but the waiters said one of them carried a clutch bag.

Two hours after Kintanar was shot dead, his ashen-faced wife, Joy, arrived at the scene of the murder.

Dressed in black, Joy Kintanar stayed for a brief 15 minutes and talked mostly to callers on her cell phone. "Rolly's dead," she told one of the callers, while slumping on a chair and covering her face with her hands.

Joy refused to give a statement to the media but had a brief conversation with senior inspector Rodolfo Jaraza, chief of the Central Police District's Intelligence Unit.

Jaraza immediately recognized the former NPA chief. "It's really him. I had breakfast with him once with Director General Mendoza" — former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Leandro Mendoza.

Kintanar's body was brought to the PNP Crime Laboratory for autopsy at around 4 p.m.

He sustained 10 gunshot wounds, including fatal ones in the heart and lungs, said medico-legal division chief Vladimir Villaseñor of the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Hours before his ambush, Kintanar dropped by at the Firearms and Explosives Division (FED) office in the Camp Crame headquarters of the PNP at around 11 a.m. to follow up on the renewal of a friend's gun license.

"He was here to get the plastic card license of a friend," said FED storage division chief Mario Sanga, quoting information from his staff. "The card was not available yet, so he left shortly after. I was not around at that time."

Sanga said "the last time he (Kintanar) was here was five months ago."

The Kintanar couple owned a security agency, according to the family friend.

A Palace official said Kintanar was a "consultant" of the PNP and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), but was drawing salary from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*).

Central Police District chief Napoleon Castro said he had formed a team to investigate the killing of Kintanar. Three other teams were assigned to follow up the case.

The NPA has been waging a rural-based rebellion for 34 years, one of Asia's longest. It reached its peak under late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986, but has been weakened over the years by battle setbacks, factionalism and loss of popular support.

The guerrillas intensified their attacks nationwide after Washington last year included the CPP and NPA on its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Ocampo said Kintanar's job of providing security and intelligence services could have presented "complications in his life," which led to his death.

He noted that Kintanar became a close-in security for House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. when De Venecia ran for president in 1998. He also became a consultant to immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo and even figured in the slaying of actress Nida Blanca.

DZMM Radio Broadcast

24 January 2003

DZMM: Jose Maria Sison - re Kintanar slay, nagsabing maraming dahilan para maparusahan ito pero hintayin daw ang sasabihin ni Ka Roger bilang Public Information Officer ng CPP-NPA; marami raw krimen si Kintanar sa rebolusyonaryong kilusan at mamamayan, maraming pinagpapatay at nagtakbo pa ng malaking pera..., pumasok siya sa daigdig ng mga kriminal...

Arturo Tabara - NPA daw ang pumatay dahil nasa hit list nito; sina Philip Limjoco raw at Bartolome Melchor ang mga pinuno ng NPA hit squad at tinatarget sila nito...

Film Director Willie Milan - siya raw ang kausap ni Kintanar sa Kamameshi Restaurant dahil interesado siyang gawing pelikula ang buhay nito at nasa ikalawang yugto na sila ng pag-uusap; nilingon pa raw nito ang bumaril sa kanya at minura pa ang gunman sa kabila ng pagbabala nito na “walang lilingon” kaya malamang kilala ni Kintanar ang gunman...

English translation

DZMM: Jose Maria Sison – re Kintanar slay, said that there were many reasons to justify the death sentence on Kintanar, but (we) should wait for the official statement from Ka Roger, the CPP-NPA’s Public Information Officer; Kintanar committed many crimes against the revolutionary movement and the masses, he was responsible for the deaths of many people and stole funds from the movement... he chose to join the criminal world

Arturo Tabara - said the NPA killed Kintanar because he was on their hit list; Philip Limjoco and Bartolome Melchor led the NPA hit squad; that the hit squad is also after him

Film Director Willie Milan – claims that he was talking to Kintanar at the Kamameshi Restaurant because he wanted to make a movie about Kintanar; it was their second round of talks; recalls that Kintanar turned to look at the gunman; claims that Kintanar also cursed the gunman despite the gunman’s warning not to turn around; this could mean that Kintanar knew the gunman

Romulo Kintanar Had Too Many Rivals and Enemies in the Criminal World of Military and Police Operatives

*Prof. Jose Ma. Sison
Chief Political Consultant
National Democratic Front of the Philippines
January 24, 2003*

(Editor's Note: This statement shows that Prof. Sison had no foreknowledge of what happened to Romulo Kintanar. He merely noted three widely known theories about the killing of Kintanar before the spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines made his announcement two days later.)

It is idle and malicious for anyone to speculate or insinuate that I have something to do with the killing of Romulo Kintanar. I am being given too much credit.

The political, military and police officials of the reactionary government should not jump to any conclusion far ahead of the findings and conclusions of any credible police investigation.

Otherwise the public would sense that the reactionary authorities are trying to cover up something and are not really interested in discovering the truth.

At least three theories have surfaced:

1. After becoming an intelligence operative of the military and police, under the guise of being a "consultant" and then security chief of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, he became involved in numerous criminal operations in which corrupt military and police officers were either his cooperators or his rivals and enemies.

The criminal operations included protection rackets, armed robbery, murder for hire, collection of unwarranted fees from overseas contract workers and sale of women entertainers abroad. It is reported that Kintanar became involved even in the Nida

Blanca murder case, in which a large amount of money from a high politician was a stake.

2. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Special Forces have long been known as seething with hatred over the killing of some US military personnel, particularly JUSMAG official Col. James Rowe, in the 1988-1990 period when Kintanar was in charge of the New People's Army (NPA).

The US seemed uninterested in holding him to account for the aforesaid killing of Americans. Instead, it has now and then unjustly blamed me for those killings. The killing of Kintanar could be the prelude to one more assassination plot against me, particularly under the wide latitude given by Bush to CIA covert operatives to engage in "wet operations" or assassinations.

3. It is widely known that Kintanar made himself liable for punishment by the revolutionary forces because of the crimes he committed while he was inside the revolutionary movement and after he became an enemy intelligence agent. He earned a lot of blood money by betraying revolutionaries and by engaging in criminal operations.

If any revolutionary force punished Kintanar, it would likely admit responsibility in due time. If he was killed by his rivals and enemies in the criminal world or by the CIA and its local assets, then there would be no reason to wait for any statement of responsibility from any revolutionary force. It would also be unlikely that the police investigators would ever come up with credible findings and conclusions.

As far as I am concerned, I have never taken any interest in Kintanar other than publicly exposing his criminal activities, which were either damaging to the people and the national democratic movement or threatening to my life and physical integrity in the last year of Estrada's presidency. Every time that I de-

nounced him, I was satisfied that I was able to expose and frustrate him to some extent in his wrongdoing.

Obviously, Kintanar took a self-destructive course by becoming an intelligence agent of the reactionary government, engaging in criminal operations and getting mixed up in the rivalries and enmities of military and police officers. #

It Was Absolutely Correct to Apprehend and Punish Romulo Kintanar

*Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal
Spokesperson
Communist Party of the Philippines
January 26, 2003*

Romulo Kintanar’s criminal accountabilities to the revolutionary movement and the people are numerous.

Kintanar began to give full vent to his criminal activities in 1984 in Davao. They worsened by the end of the 1980s and were exacerbated when he was expelled from the Party in 1992 and joined criminal syndicates within and outside the military. It was absolutely correct to put an end to his corrupt, criminal, counter-revolutionary and bloody record.

Serious criminal charges were filed against him before the people’s court in 1993. The NPA had long been ordered to arrest him and present him before the people’s court. But he had long been evading arrest and had even taken countermeasures to avoid facing his criminal accountabilities. A special unit of the New People’s Army shot him on January 23, 2002 when he and his two bodyguards tried to reach for their guns and resist arrest.

The Party and the NPA are always determined to make accountable to revolutionary justice those guilty of the most serious crimes against the revolution and the people, whether they be present or former leaders of the Party and the NPA or are wealthy or powerful highly placed reactionaries.

The NPA metes the maximum penalty only to those found guilty beyond reasonable doubt of having committed heinous crimes. Kintanar was one such liable person. Following are but some of his biggest criminal accountabilities committed way back when he was still operating under false pretenses within the Party

and the New People's Army, and which worsened when he openly betrayed the revolutionary movement:

1) Illegal abuse of his authority within the Party and people's army in masterminding, launching and propagating gangster operations. The "special operations" groups he organized or led were the ones who implemented kidnapping-for-ransom, holdups of banks and other businesses, dollar counterfeiting operations and other forms of crime and malfeasance. He used the dirty money he earned for the personal indulgence and luxury and decadent lifestyle that he and his cohorts led. He corrupted and debased the urban partisan units under his command. He likewise recruited dregs of society and connived with criminal syndicates, military and police forces and rotten elements who, along with him, eventually became traitors and were expelled from the Party and the NPA. Some of the operatives he used were killed in an attempted bank holdup in Parañaque before his arrest in 1991.

Such operations were first undertaken in Davao City until the latter became the "killing capital" in the early part of the 1980s. He expanded and brought this on the national scale. From 1989 until his arrest in 1991, the special operations unit under his direct command did nothing but engage in criminal gangster operations. They raked in millions of pesos from such activities, which they concealed from the Party and kept for themselves.

Kintanar's criminal gang was responsible for the biggest kidnap cases during the 1980s. It was responsible for kidnapping Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji in 1986, where Kintanar and his men earned \$10 million in ransom.

In 1989, in connivance with then CPP Visayas Commission secretary Arturo Tabara, Kintanar also masterminded the kidnapping in Iloilo City of Bombo Radyo-Philippines owner and president Roger Florete, raking in P15 million.

Kintanar's criminal activities were perpetrated without authorization from the Party's central leading organ. Since it was clear to Kintanar and his cohorts that such activities violated the policies and rules of the Party and NPA, they purposely concealed them.

After his release in 1992, he used his former position and ordered a group of his former men to continue with their gangster activities, without any authorization from the Party and NPA and despite the central leading organ's campaign against gangsterism.

2) Stealing massive amounts of funds from the Party. Kintanar stole huge amounts of money from the revolutionary movement's funds. One of the biggest cases discovered in 1991 involved P30 million which he personally misappropriated and stashed away and to which he alone had access. The Party was able to obtain information about this matter only when the unit directly under his command reported it after his arrest in August 1991. This is aside from other big amounts that he failed to submit to collective supervision, were not properly accounted for and which he refused to subject to investigation. Before he openly betrayed the Party, he likewise cleaned out Party funds from all the accounts that were known to him.

3) Attempt to split and wreck the Party and revolutionary movement. Kintanar was one of the most rabid instigators of factionalism at the onset, and the eventual attempts to destroy the Party and the revolutionary movement. He arrogated the authority to push an all-out anti-Party campaign starting in September 1992. He deceived and goaded a number of Party cadres and members and NPA commanders, fighters and units to wage mutiny and bolt the revolutionary movement. He agreed with and encouraged Filemon Lagman and Arturo Tabara to leave the Party and form the RPA. Although he was not a part of the RPA's formal leadership, he served as adviser to Tabara and Carapali

Lualhati on RPA policies, until this culminated in their formal surrender to the government and outright collusion in military operations against the revolutionary movement.

4) Since his expulsion from the Party, Kintanar went full throttle with his criminal and counter-revolutionary activities. He connived with the AFP and PNP against the Party and the revolutionary movement, became preoccupied with criminal syndicate operations and bureaucratic corruption, and served as gun-for-hire to reactionary politicians and others who wanted to commission killings.

He used his status and internal knowledge of the revolutionary movement to support the government's "counter-insurgency" operations. He served as a security consultant to Gen. Alexander Aguirre, Estrada's national security adviser. Before he was meted punishment, his real job — as a Malacañang official himself disclosed — was to serve as consultant to the AFP and PNP, even as he drew his salary and used his position as security consultant for the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation and the National Electrification Administration as fronts. He directly connived with the ISAFP under Col. Victor Corpus in planning and implementing surveillance operations, psy-ops and sabotage operations and attacking and attempting to destroy NPA units and guerrilla zones.

Kintanar himself was the project officer of a group formed in May 2000 and sent to the Netherlands to undertake the assassination of Comrade Jose Maria Sison. However, the group met difficulties, squabbled and had to return. This only shows up to what extent Kintanar would go in conspiring with his buddies among the military and bureaucracy to violently fight against the revolution.

Even Philip Medel became one of the hired killers under Kintanar and his uncle, former ISAFP chief Gen. Galileo Kintanar's wing. They maintained various safehouses for their

criminal transactions with Medel and other guns-for-hire. Romulo Kintanar merely concocted the story about Medel's confession regarding the killing of Nida Blanca.

With Kintanar going all-out in conspiring with the military and police, it was no wonder that he was treated as a VIP by the AFP and PNP. In fact, Kintanar, aside from Arturo Tabara of the RPA-ABB, was a special guest of PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. during the recent anniversary of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Though these are related to his criminal cases, we treat his espousal of anti-Party ideological, political and organizational lines differently. Kintanar was among those who instigated the lines of military adventurism, premature urban insurrectionism and other serious errors that wrought grave damage to the Party and the revolutionary movement.

He was also involved in planning and implementing the decision that kicked off the arrests, torture and murder of suspected deep penetration agents (DPA) in Mindanao in 1984. This created the atmosphere and mode for the ensuing Kampanyang Ahos. He conspired with other elements in concealing information from the Central Committee's 9th Plenum in 1985 about the raging bloody witchhunt and the severe damage this wrought, thus preventing the Party's central leadership from immediately putting an end to it and instituting corrective measures.

To correct the distortions by Malacañang and the military, I would like to stress that the revolutionary movement reserves the maximum penalty only for those who have been proven beyond reasonable doubt of having committed serious and heinous crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement such as unjust killing and kidnapping for ransom.

I also wish to clarify that resigning from the Party or leaving the revolutionary movement or simply espousing the erroneous

line or speaking against the Party are not considered crimes punishable by death.

Joining the Party, NPA and revolutionary movement is entirely voluntary and anyone who does not agree with the movement or who could no longer carry on the tasks or bear the sacrifices attendant to waging revolution is free to leave. Erroneous lines are corrected through education campaigns. Political and propaganda attacks are likewise countered in the arena of politics and propaganda and not through force. In this regard, Malacañang's claim that there is an NPA hit list that includes Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao is a monstrous lie.

In fact, the ideological, political and organizational issues within the Party and the revolutionary movement have in the main been resolved through the Party's successful repudiation and rectification of the militarist and insurrectionist line peddled by Kintanar and by his exiting the Party and the NPA to wage an all-out campaign from the outside against the NPA and the revolution. The revolutionary movement's victories in the fields of armed struggle, united front work, base building and in advancing people's struggles, especially in the past three years, are proof of the success of the rectification movement waged by the Party from 1992 to 1998.

Kintanar was meted punishment not for espousing the wrong ideological, political and organizational line but for his serious criminal accountabilities to the revolutionary movement and the people.

Thus, it is ridiculous for Macapagal-Arroyo, the AFP, PNP and Kintanar's co-conspirators and fellow traitors and criminals to make him out as a "good citizen" and an advocate of peace. It is one thing to simply talk about the need for peace. It is another thing to be actually involved in counter-revolution and launching armed projects against the revolutionary movement and its

personages. It is impossible for someone very deeply involved with criminal syndicates, counter-revolutionary and antipeople military campaigns and gun-for-hire operations to be a person with good intentions and desirous of genuine peace and justice for the people.

NPA admits Kintanar slay

The Philippine Star
Monday, January 27, 2003

Breaking his silence, communist guerrilla spokesman Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal admitted yesterday that a “special team” of the New People’s Army carried out the assassination of former NPA chieftain Romulo Kintanar last week.

In a statement carried on the Internet yesterday, Rosal said Kintanar was killed because of “numerous accountabilities to the revolutionary movement and the people.”

“It was absolutely correct to put an end to Kintanar’s rotten, criminal, counter-revolutionary and bloody record,” he said.

Rosal made the statement four days after Kintanar was gunned down by unidentified men in a Japanese restaurant at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Authorities had suspected an NPA hit squad was behind the killing of Kintanar.

Rosal said Kintanar was sentenced in 1993 by a “people’s court,” which found him guilty of masterminding and propagating “gangster operations,” stealing P30 million from the funds of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and conniving with the police and military in counter-insurgency operations. (Editor’s Note: To be precise, Kintanar was charged with grave crimes since 1993).

He said Kintanar had a standing “warrant” for his arrest but the NPA failed several times to take him before their court to face the charges.

Rosal claimed Kintanar was able to evade the NPA by taking counter-measures to “avoid facing his criminal and counter-revolutionary accountabilities.”

Rosal accused Kintanar of kidnapping Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji in 1986, which earned the former NPA chieftain and his cohorts a hefty sum of \$10 million. (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*)

Another case was the abduction of Bombo-Radyo Philippines president Roger Florete in 1989 that earned Kintanar and his group P15 million, Rosal said. (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*)

Kintanar connived with his fellow NPA renegade Arturo Tabara in the kidnapping of Florete, Rosal added.

He said Kintanar and his gang masterminded several bank robberies. In one operation in 1991, an NPA rebel was killed by responding policemen.

Rosal also said Kintanar was involved in gun-for-hire activities, including the slaying of actress Nida Blanca in November 2001.

He said Philip Medel, one of the controversial suspects charged in the Blanca slaying, was a hired killer under the pay of Kintanar and his uncle, retired general Galileo Kintanar, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

Foremost of his crimes, Rosal stressed, was the failed assassination attempt on CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison in May 2000.

Kintanar allegedly laid out the plans and headed the group that was to carry out the assignment.

“The group organized by Kintanar actually went to the Netherlands (where Sison is in self-exile) to implement their plan but had to return because of difficulties they met and squabbles within the group,” he said.

Rosal insisted the killing of Kintanar was for “criminal reasons.”

“(It) is not for his ideological, political and organizational differences with the CPP leadership, not his leaving the party and the revolutionary movement. Kintanar’s gangsterism violated CPP policies and rules and was perpetrated without the CPP leadership’s knowledge and consent,” Rosal said.

Sison, for his part, maintained he was not directly involved in the killing of Kintanar although he did not discount the possibility that Kintanar was slain by his former comrades in the NPA for supposedly “making himself (Kintanar) liable for punishment.”

Kintanar was among four former communist leaders allegedly sentenced to death by an NPA “people’s court” after they broke away from the CPP faction headed by Sison.

Following the struggle within the CPP leadership in 1991. Kintanar found himself on the side of the “rejectionists and traitors,” as branded by Sison.

The CPP-NPA expelled Kintanar in the early 1990s, when he was freed from prison. He later led a splinter faction in peace talks with the government, and since worked as security consultant for two government agencies.

President Arroyo confirmed Kintanar was working as a government intelligence agent at the time of his assassination.

(Editor’s Note: Bold letters ours)

Kintanar Lost Rolex, Cash, 3 Guns, Golf Set

Philippine Daily Inquirer

February 06, 2003

EX-REBEL leader Romulo Kintanar was not only murdered but also robbed of cash, guns and other valuables including a set of golf clubs.

Kintanar's family cannot find his wallet containing, among other things, credit cards and at least 500 dollars in cash; a Rolex wristwatch said to be worth 380,000 pesos; and three guns (a .40 cal. pistol, an HK machine pistol and a Glock 9mm), a police official privy to the investigation said Wednesday (*Editor's Note: Bold letters ours*).

The official said a golf set had also been removed from Kintanar's Toyota Land Cruiser, which was brought to the Central Police District headquarters right after he was shot dead Jan. 23 at a restaurant in Quezon City.

According to the official, Kintanar's assailants could not have stolen the valuables because a number of witnesses saw them leaving the Kamameshi Restaurant at the Quezon Memorial Circle immediately after the shooting.

He said the valuables went missing only when policemen arrived and started gathering evidence from the restaurant and Kintanar's vehicle.

"This is bad," the official told the Inquirer. "They have no business taking the man's valuables. They're not evidence, in the first place. They should have been immediately returned to the Kintanar family."

The official also said the widow, Joy Asuncion-Kintanar, had been asking Central Police District authorities about her husband's belongings but that only his mobile phone, bracelet and necklace had been returned.